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UPCOMING CSRS PROGRAM Security Sector Reform: The Art of Assessment

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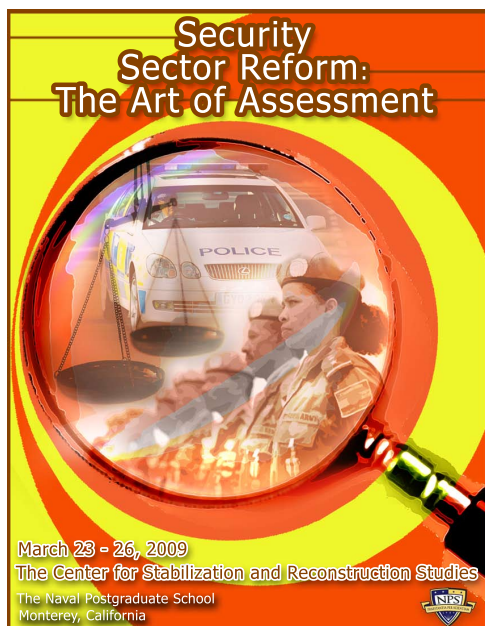
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UPCOMING CSRS PROGRAM

“Security Sector Reform: The Art of Assessment”

March 23-26/27, 2009 Monterey, California



Effective policy-making and field-level programs in security sector reform are dependent upon accurate assessments of recipient country capabilities, needs, and capacity for reform. Too often, faced with the urgency of weak justice and security systems, outside agencies fail to conduct appropriate assessments before launching programs. As a consequence, short, intermediate and long-term prospects are often compromised. This workshop is designed to bring together knowledgeable practitioners of SSR to discuss ways to enhance assessment techniques so programs will have a better chance to hit the ground running.

In addition, to the CSRS workshop (March 23-26), all participants are invited to join a follow-on, one day working meeting (March 27) to craft an outline of and work plan for the completion of a defense sector assessment tool.

Why You Should Attend:

Participants will:

- Review the state of the art in assessment methodologies among various practitioner organizations.
- Discuss biases and issues outsiders bring to assessment (time and monetary constraints, industrialized country norms, a focus on institutions rather than capabilities, finding problems for our tools).
- Discuss methods to better analyze indigenous perspectives and non-state voices (non-governmental views of what is needed, traditional justice systems, societal capacity for reform, the influence of indigenous politics on reform)
- Expand professional networks among the communities involved in SSR activities.

Who Will Attend:

Approximately 45 representatives from civilian government agencies, non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations and the armed forces will attend. Participants should have policy or field-level experience in SSR or its sub-sectors.

Methodology:

The workshop is designed to be a meeting among experienced practitioners of SSR. As such, the content will draw heavily from the participants and will consist of a series of panel presentations, facilitated plenary dialogue and small-group interactions.

Faculty:

Eric Scheye, a justice and security sector practitioner and scholar, and CSRS staff will facilitate this program.

Specific Dates:

Workshop begins, 6 pm Monday, March 23rd and concludes 5pm Thursday, March 26th. An open follow-on working meeting will be held 9am-5pm on Friday, March 27th.

Follow-on Working Meeting:

In addition, to the CSRS workshop (March 23-26), all participants are invited to join a follow-on, one day working meeting (March 27) hosted by CSRS and the Center for Civil-Military Relations on behalf of the US Office of the Secretary of Defense to craft an outline of and work plan for the completion of a defense sector assessment tool.

Travel:

All international and domestic participants should plan to arrive by 5 pm, Monday, March 23. All are welcome to arrive early or depart late, but CSRS will not be able to cover additional accommodation expenses.

Accommodations:

The event will be held at a local hotel (to be announced) where participants from outside of Monterey will be housed.

Cost:

- There is no tuition or conference fee.
- CSRS will cover the costs of lodging at the program site for practitioners from non-governmental organizations, governmental civilian agencies, and inter-governmental organizations. (Representatives of the defense/armed forces community (including civilian employees) must pay their own lodging.)
- CSRS has some grant funds available to reimburse reasonable travel expenses for a few representatives of NGOs, IGOs and non-US government officials from civilian agencies (non-defense sector).
- CSRS will provide lunch gratis on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

CSRS Contact:

Nick Tomb, ntomb@nps.edu, 831-656-1829.

Application:

Applications are accepted via the CSRS online system: http://www.csrs-nps.org/logistica/public/conference_register.cfm. The application period for this course will close on February 9, 2009. Admission decisions will be announced on a rolling basis starting February 9th until all seats are filled.